

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL**

Re: Annual Report and Analysis of Competitive Market Conditions With Respect to Commercial Mobile Services (Eight Report) (adopted June 26, 2003)

The annual analysis of the CMRS market demonstrates how a lighter regulatory hand has ushered in innovation and technological advancement, and the power of facilities-based competition into the marketplace. Today 95% of American consumers now have three or more choices in wireless providers, and a stunning 71% have six or more choices. And with this wealth of choices has come lower per minute prices and more innovative services. The conclusion is inescapable: the wireless industry is highly competitive. The Report, however, notes that rural areas have fewer competitors than urban areas. I look forward to working with my colleagues to develop policies that will enhance the effectiveness of competition in rural areas by removing unnecessary regulatory barriers to facilitating the deployment and delivery of spectrum-based services in these areas. This is the most comprehensive wireless competition report that the Commission has ever produced and I applaud the efforts of the Wireless Bureau to update, verify, and diversify our data to better capture the state of the marketplace.